



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT PLACES INITIAL H1N1 VACCINE ORDER

JOLIET – The Will County Health Department has placed an initial order for 25,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The order includes all formulations of the new vaccine, which has been specifically designed to provide protection against the novel H1N1 flu. It is not known when this initial shipment of vaccine will arrive, but the Health Department expects to offer vaccine through a series of free, walk-in community clinics later this month or in early November.

“It is important to note that these 25,000 doses represent only an initial order of vaccine,” according to Will County Health Department executive director John Cicero. “We’re uncertain exactly when vaccine will arrive, or how many doses will be in the first shipment. We will continue to order H1N1 vaccine on a regular basis, and we expect that there will be enough vaccine available to accommodate everyone who would like to be protected against the H1N1 flu.”

Details regarding free H1N1 community clinics offered by the Health Department will be announced soon. In addition to walk-in clinics offered by the Health Department, H1N1 vaccine will also be available through physicians, some area pharmacies, and other community sources.

“This marks the beginning of the largest public vaccination initiative ever undertaken,” Cicero said. “The flu season is just beginning. “We will quickly begin to offer an ongoing series of community clinics when vaccine arrives. I urge everyone to watch for details concerning community vaccination efforts. We have been planning for this since early August.”

According to the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Illinois is one of at least 27 states currently reporting widespread H1N1 activity. Across Illinois, the H1N1 virus has been linked to 19 fatalities and at least 450 hospitalizations.

The H1N1 virus poses special risks for pregnant women, persons between six months and 24 years old, and people between 25 and 64 years old with diabetes, asthma, and other underlying chronic medical conditions. Health care workers, emergency services personnel, and people who live with, or care for children younger than six months old are also priorities for early H1N1 vaccination.



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